Questions and Answers regarding RFP 055

Q: The RFP stipulates that Microsoft .Net is the environment for developing the solution. Which .Net language is required for developing the WCF services code?
A: Both Visual Basic and C# are acceptable

Q: Does CMAP maintain application coding standards for the implementations languages? Coding standards typically have direction on naming conventions, usage of language features, required encapsulation for fields, properties, use of interfaces, etc.
A: CMAP will work with the selected contractor to ensure that CMAP standards are understood.

Q: Will the project be subject to an internal code review? What criteria will be used for the code review, and what items are subject to required modifications?
A: CMAP will work with the selected contractor during the entire development process. We use agile project management methods so that modifications to problematic code segments can be implemented early, before they become too widely embedded in the application.

Q: Are there architectural diagrams showing the existing logical and physical architecture? Are there component diagrams illustrating application assemblies/namespaces, external dependencies, and logical components?
A: CMAP is currently enhancing system documentation. But since the selected contractor will primarily be working on URL routing and unit testing of existing functions, as opposed to developing a vertical application stack, we believe that RFP responses can be scoped adequately by using existing documentation such as http://data.cmap.illinois.gov/API.aspx.

Q: The Open Data Protocol (OData) (www.odata.org) is collecting some traction in the public and private space. CMAP dictates that the XML format for responses will not change in this RFP. Is CMAP looking at OData to determine the applicability of using the format for future service deployments?
A: CMAP is very interested in OData but has not committed to adopting it. In any case, if OData is adopted, it will be in addition to, not instead of, the protocols used in our existing applications.

Q: The RFP states that unit tests are expected to be developed to exercise the service interface. Are the data access and XML formatting components developed with interfaces to allow using a mocking methodology> What mocking infrastructure is in place? Is a mocking infrastructure implementation for the testing of the web services required if an infrastructure is not currently present?
A: Currently, CMAP has no mocking architecture, which we expect to implement as part of our adoption of the MVC framework. We do not expect the selected contractor to implement robust unit tests for every function used in CMAP's API. Rather, we are hoping that the selected contractor can put in place a few exemplary unit tests that CMAP staff can replicate on a wider basis.

Q: What unit test tools are currently being used? What unit test tools are required for the RFP.
A: CMAP is interested in adopting a stable testing solution that integrates with Microsoft's MVC framework. We will work with the selected contractor to identify the best tool(s) for the job.

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Q: Are there specific design patterns used for the existing web services implementation that should be followed. Is CMAP currently using an Adapter, Facade, Bridge, or other well-known design pattern?
A: CMAP is not explicitly using the design patterns mentioned. To the extent that design patterns would be relevant to the task at hand (developing REST endpoints for existing data-access functions), we would be interested in using them.

Q: Are you expecting the REST web services to return the same data that you currently provide (albeit in a modified format) but with different url's? Or are you looking to reorganize the data returned in a more meaningful manner?
A: At the current time we do not require the data results to be reorganized, But we are open to advice form the selected contractor pertaining to organization of the resultset.

Q: Are the new services meant to replace or augment the current API?
A: The REST web services will augment, not replace CMAP's current API.